From: Anthony D'Attomo-Home Office
To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/2/02 12:36pm
Subject: MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

DEAR SIR:

I am the Chief Financial Officer for a national company. I have worked with computer people my entire career, and in fact, I now have over 20 IT professionals reporting to me. If you have not realized it already, they can be a most unusual breed of people. In the case of Microsoft, the feelings become intense and personal. For those that do not like Bill Gates, it is as if he ran over the family dog. The only analogy I can make is if you had some deep hatred for the President of Ford, and therefore refused to buy a Ford automobile for that reason alone

The PC came about when I first started my career in 1979. I have operated the original type that wrote files to a tape player, all the way up to the amazingly powerful clusters that exist today. I can tell you that clearly computing owes Microsoft everything. What I can do in this companies network could not be accomplished without what Microsoft did with its software. No matter how a person feels about Mr. Gates, we cannot overlook this simple fact.

The rocks being thrown by other software makes is nothing but sour grapes. They got beat, and they do not like it. I can tell you for example in the Apple vision for the world 20 years ago, it was use Apple software and hardware, or you use nothing at all. Thank god we were not being led by that group.

The bottom line is that Microsoft made computing what it is today, and they continue to provide the best product. I can tell you that XP is beautiful as are all of the Microsoft products. If someone makes something better, we will buy it, and run it under XP.

As far as operating systems like XP, 2000, 98 and 95, they fact that they provide a standard for us to run our desktops and networking is imperative to keeping this process on track. Imagine that if every time you bought an appliance for your home each device required its own particular power source. You would have a mess on your hands. In computing the desktop operating system is like the electricity in your home, a standard is imperative.

As far as my two cents, I am glad that you are near settlement. I would rather see my tax dollars spent chasing a real problem, and not one generated by software vendors who failed to deliver a good product and now stand behind the government to get them back into the game. The protraction of this debate is also upsetting the stock market and the financial stability of the nation. Dragging this out hurts everyone, and helps no

one.

By the way, if you want to understand a true monopolistically aggressive company, check out AOL. They better fit the pattern that you are looking for

Anthony D'Attomo CPA